

# Montana State Library

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# MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of  
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

## MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

### Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Albert F. Root, Commissioner

Chadwick H. Smith, Chairman

Paul R. McClure, Commissioner

Mitchell Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana

FL-153

NOVEMBER 15, 1955

## October Wage-Earners Reflect Seasonal Trend

October employment estimates of non-farm wage earners in Montana give a preliminary total of 159,300, a decline of 3,400 from September revised figures and 4,700 below the all-time record set in August. The swing downward from September employment is of seasonal nature, and is more pronounced in the current figures than the normal trend, which has averaged 2,300 from September to October over the past eight years.

### More Employed Than Year Ago

The October estimates are 9,100 above those of a year ago, when prevalence of a wage dispute and work stoppage in the metals industry idled 6,700 in mines and smelters alone, and contributed to idleness in other lines in the areas where the dispute centered. Transportation, trade, finance, and service industries were affected in their employment by the metal situation. Only one previous October, in 1953, had higher employment than reflected in the current estimates.

### Seasonal Decline Noted

Seasonal aspects of the present employment picture are highlighted by a September to October shrinkage of 1,100 in construction, 1,200 in wholesale and retail trade, 700 in service industries, and 1,000 in government. Only in manufacturing is a plus figure reported. Lumber and timber's seasonal loss of 600 is more than offset by the sugar refinery gain of 1,300 reflected in food processing. The sugar campaign will draw to a close in November and December.

### Follows Normal Fall Pattern

Closing of the flush tourist season, curtailment of seasonal activities in lumber and logging, and gradual withdrawal of construction contractors from the labor market, along with completion of summer projects by counties and cities, account for the bulk of seasonal employment shrinkage recorded to date. The process normally continues through the midwinter period, with re-employment beginning in February and gaining momentum in March and April.

### Manufacturing Holds Up Well

Comparison of this October with that of 1953, the only October month with higher total employment than this year, is 159,300 this October and 159,600 two years ago. Manufacturing employment made the biggest major industry gain, with 21,300 against 19,600. Finance, insurance, and real estate, at 5,700 this October and 4,900 two years ago, is second in numerical growth. Construction and service industries each show 100 plus in the figures this month.

### Technology a Factor

Reduction of 1,000 in transportation and utilities from the 1953 figures has resulted largely from technological changes

## OCTOBER LABOR SURPLUS TRENDS UPWARD AS SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT LAYOFFS BEGIN

Surplus manpower in Montana's labor markets gained in numbers during October, the first whispering of the usual fall and winter period of work-curtailement and seasonal layoffs. The movement measured about 20 percent, judging by the number of work-applicants registered at offices of the employment service throughout the state. The count of 3,348 such jobseekers is only 200 above the average of the six preceding Octobers. This is 567 above the September count, an indicator of the seasonal force reductions which normally occur from September into the winter.

### Situation Brighter Than Year Ago

The late October job supply was 700 below that of a year earlier, when employment was disrupted as a result of work stoppage in the metals industry. It is less than 700 above that in the same month in 1953 but exceeds the 1952 October supply by 1,400, that in 1951 by 800, in 1950 by less than 200, and is 1,200 below the supply in October, 1949, when the state and national economy was in the midst of an "inventory" recession.

### Work-Applicant Count in Review

	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
January .....	12,887	12,270	10,616	10,370	11,685	18,048
March .....	11,979	11,075	9,323	9,392	10,844	16,085
May .....	5,565	6,191	4,324	3,276	4,312	6,755
July .....	4,628	4,283	3,249	2,191	3,260	3,920
September .....	2,781	3,782	2,288	1,388	2,304	2,578
October .....	3,348	4,038	2,688	1,955	2,572	3,179
November .....	5,300*	5,617	5,048	4,135	4,341	5,349

\*Estimated.

### Labor Demand Follows Normal Trend

Employment demand as measured by employment service job placements, including agriculture, in October was six percent above that a year ago, three percent short of the 1953 demand, even with that of 1952, and ten percent short of the record heavy October hiring movement in 1951. Placements in non-farm jobs in October were 19 percent more numerous than in 1954 but fell about ten percent below placements in October of 1953, 1952, and 1951.

### Hiring Active in Construction, Trade

Wholesale and retail trade led other non-farm industries in number of placements recorded in October, with 976, followed by contract construction with 591, manufacturing 369, mining 328, and service industries, 309. The total of farm hires was 3,263, a decrease of nearly 200 from a year ago but substantially above 1953 and 1952 figures. Potato harvest was a potent source for job openings this year, using about half of the October total.

### Increasing Surplus Anticipated

Increasing surplus of workers over job openings is anticipated during the next three months. This follows the usual seasonal pattern of winter curtailment in most forms of outdoor work. In terms of total non-farm employment the winter dip ranges from 13,900 to 18,800 workers, occurring from August or September to January or February.

### 1955 Recovery Near Record

Last winter the decline for that period was 18,200, accentuated by employment decreases arising from the work stoppage in metals. The corresponding recovery, from February to August, was 20,800, to reach the highest total employment figure in the

history of the state. That measure of recovery has been exceeded only once, in 1950, when employment rose 24,900 from February to August. In other recent years it has ranged from as low as 15,200 in 1951 to the 24,900 in 1950, 20,800 this year, and 20,700 in 1952.

### Demand for Miners Continues

Industries least affected by the winter sag in employment are mining, most manufacturing enterprises, finance, and to some extent transportation, trade, and service industries. An active demand for additional underground miners in the metal field exists, and will absorb some of the releases from other vocations.

### Construction Outlook Favorable

In the construction field the largest employment projects, the building of an aluminum plant at Columbia Falls, and the Tiber dam in the Marias river near Chester, are completed, or nearly complete, releasing substantial numbers of men who will not be recalled to those jobs. Other, but smaller, projects are already under way or will be at full force next spring, partially offsetting the absence of these big employment factors.

### Highway Crews Up from 1954

Employment figures on the state highway system during October show 867 working for contractors on 303 miles of highway and 13 bridge and facility jobs and 766 on maintenance and repair. This is 300 above similar employment in October last year, and shows a shrinkage of only 200 from the September level. Contracts on which work was not in progress were for 13 road sections covering 56 miles, and eight bridges to cost \$1,400,000. Some of these projects will be begun in November or December. Nine road and three bridge contracts were completed in October.

## Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary, Nov. 1

**ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Phillipsburg**—(49 jobseekers; 12 men, 37 women; 7 men and 13 women over 45) Labor demand low through October, with nearly full employment. Construction started on telephone building, building labor adequate, carpenters scarce. Smelter employment about stabilized to six-day week, some replacements of turn-over required. Retail trade demand for holiday help just beginning to be felt.

**BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup**—(532 jobseekers; 322 men, 210 women; 100 men and 57 women over 45) Seasonal operations are continuing, aside from vegetable canning, with full crews but very little new hiring; weather may halt some of them at any time. Construction demand fair in October, with tapering off in prospect. Farm labor supply about normal, with light demand. Mechanization has reduced manpower needs in beet harvest.

**BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident**—(199 jobseekers; 154 men, 45 women; 26 men and 1 woman over 45) Increased labor supply principally college students and wives of students. Construction layoffs beginning as season draws to close. Addition to college building under way; new food market nearly complete; road job progressing with full crew until weather intervenes; three new building jobs started; bids for new high school structure tied up.

**BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall**—(338 jobseekers; 189 men, 149 women; 93 men and 40 women over 45) Hiring of underground miners increased with return of summer migrants from outdoor employment. Clearance results also increased, more miners still needed. Seasonal layoffs in construction began upon completion of several small projects, two large jobs continuing as long as weather permits. Railroad gangs being kept at full strength for finishing seasonal program.

**CUT BANK**—(46 jobseekers; 28 men, 18 women; 6 men and 2 women over 45) Outdoor work proceeding in face of threatened interruption by cold weather. Two buildings begun in October, new school structure now being bricked. All building skills at work, though demands for carpenters and bricklayers have been met so far. Oil field work is at full pace, with cable drillers in demand.

**DILLON**—(60 jobseekers; 28 men, 32 women; 13 men and 15 women over 45) Potato, grain, and hay harvest wound up in October, ranch labor market in balance up to now. Power line in southern end of county half completed, 69 miles involved. City sewer project delayed, shortage of pipe. Lead and silver mine re-opened, six miners, five working on new phosphate

## LABOR MARKET REFLECTORS

Employment—	1955 Oct.	1955 Sept.	1954 Oct.	Oct. Avg. 1950-1954
Industrial Employment	159,300	162,700	150,200	154,500
New Job Applicants	2,866	2,539	2,459	2,273
Job Applicants, End of Month	3,348	2,781	4,038	2,886
Insured Unemployment—	Nov. 4 1955	Oct. 7 1955	Nov. 5 1954	Avg. 1st Nov. Wk. 1950-1954
New and Renewal Claims	604	291	533	462
Unemployed Weeks Filed	1,285	854	2,027	1,388
Total Unemployment Claims	1,889	1,145	2,560	1,850

project, more by New Year. About 50 men employed in construction of residences, high school addition, and garage remodeling.

**GLASGOW**—(82 jobseekers; 42 men, 40 women; 4 men and 11 women over 45) Work on airbase preliminaries is brisk, 35 added to payrolls in October. Building program in Glasgow continuing, includes hotel, apartment house, theatre, two office buildings, a state fish station, and residences. At Opheim addition is being built to government installation; bridge work near Nashua. Some layoffs expected in November.

**GLENDALE, Circle, Wibaux**—(46 jobseekers; 33 men, 13 women; 6 men and 5 women over 45) No shortage of labor, either in industry or agriculture, but the market is near balance. Contract construction is at full midsummer pace, including homes, business structures, and roads. More transients appearing. Potato harvest completed in October, beet pulling 90 percent finished.

**GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford**—(339 jobseekers; 216 men, 183 women; 74 men and 30 women over 45) Employment level remained steady through October; hiring was most active in railway work, construction, and smelters. Bricklayers in short supply. Work continues on airbase facilities, addition to department store, hotel, school buildings, street reconstruction, and private homes. Shortage of construction skills early in month eased toward its close with some completions. Railway crews all filled.

**HAMILTON, Stevensville**—(77 jobseekers; 56 men, 21 women; 24 men and 7 women over 45) Increasing supply of job applicants for second successive month. Farm hands being released and annual fall decline in logging and lumber employment has begun. Food processing all finished. New road job will use a dozen men. Surplus of manpower in prospect during next four months.

**HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem**—(36 jobseekers; 16 men, 20 women; 5 men and 6 women over 45) Employment conditions better than year ago, but shows beginning of seasonal decline on normal schedule.

Railroad track crews and construction outfits will be reduced when weather breaks. Dike work on flood project started, local labor supply ample for all expected demands.

**HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs**—(169 jobseekers; 85 men, 84 women; 34 men and 31 women over 45) Surplus of applicants beginning to appear, but in less volume than normal. Construction program continuing, with two big projects completed. Smelter hiring is only for replacement, brickyards have reduced force for fall and winter. Hiring in trade circles brisk, for holiday season. Several small mines in area expanding crews. Some shortage of office workers, particularly stenographers; most building skills are in short supply.

**KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish**—(485 jobseekers; 318 men, 167 women; 131 men and 40 women over 45) Construction contracts on aluminum plant are completed and operational crew at better than 500 is filled for the winter period. Other construction projects beginning to trim crews for fall and winter. Occasional orders in that work hard to fill, due to short tenure of job. Logging and lumbering crews still near peak strength, but due for reduction as winter advances. Expect 900 in layoffs and force reduction in November and December, and another 600 in January.

**LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett**—(52 jobseekers; 29 men, 23 women; 21 men and 11 women over 45) Labor demand from industry continued through October on more pronounced scale than year ago. Construction is active, with 20 new homes, a store building, and enlargement of telephone building, keeping all construction labor and skills employed. Late forest fire in October used 350 fighters on short notice for brief period.

**LIVINGSTON, Big Timber**—(132 jobseekers; 67 men, 55 women; 35 men and 15 women over 45) Construction work in the area declined in October, seasonal pattern. Road projects nearly completed, work

(Continued on Page Three)

## EIGHT YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1948	134.4	132.0	133.2	137.1	140.6	145.8	148.9	150.3	151.4	149.6	149.4	147.7	143.4
1949	137.1	135.5	137.7	144.0	147.3	151.0	150.0	150.1	149.8	148.2	146.1	143.3	145.0
1950	133.2	132.2	135.2	142.1	147.3	153.6	154.9	157.1	156.8	152.2	150.7	148.8	147.0
1951	141.9	139.4	140.3	145.9	149.4	154.1	153.5	154.6	154.3	152.4	151.7	150.6	149.0
1952	140.5	140.7	143.0	149.7	154.8	159.9	159.5	161.2	160.4	157.9	156.0	154.9	153.2
1953	145.8	144.5	146.3	149.7	153.1	158.0	158.5	160.6	160.3	159.6	157.6	156.4	154.2
1954	146.6	145.4	147.1	150.7	155.1	160.3	161.3	161.4	152.3	150.2	152.3	150.6	152.8
1955	143.6	143.2	144.2	148.3	154.1	160.6	162.4	164.0	162.7	159.3			

# EMPLOYER COUNTIES, FISCAL YEAR 1955

COUNTY	ALL COVERED		AND RETAIL	FINANCE, INSURANCE			SERVICE INDUSTRIES		
	Average No. Employers	Average No. Wage Earners	DE	Average No. Employers	Average No. Wage Earners	REAL ESTATE	Average No. Employers	Average No. Wage Earners	AND MISC. (2)
			WAGES			WAGES			WAGES
Beaverhead .....	191	718	\$ 1,042,506	9	31	\$ 114,322	39	206	\$ 705,050
Big Horn .....	144	512	770,839	9	39	168,098	34	73	179,984
Blaine .....	140	548	783,112	7	41	130,258	25	63	122,879
Broadwater .....	56	193	273,080	1	6	21,899	10	37	70,135
Carbon .....	193	572	449,943	8	23	95,867	39	97	208,263
Carter .....	41	104	103,331	2	7	23,662	8	20	41,275
Cascade .....	1,402	13,357	17,655,194	147	948	3,188,772	372	2,142	4,934,409
Chouteau .....	129	423	1,021,709	6	23	70,306	22	41	114,027
Custer .....	328	1,810	2,606,630	15	76	259,233	100	389	916,851
Daniels .....	90	285	534,164	5	20	68,195	16	24	47,412
Dawson .....	252	1,470	1,628,358	11	63	185,138	63	302	865,604
Deer Lodge .....	262	4,057	1,295,412	18	52	144,258	57	212	417,356
Fallon .....	87	216	303,762	6	22	66,594	19	36	80,266
Fergus .....	336	1,518	2,162,661	27	105	257,713	74	231	528,232
Flathead .....	959	5,946	5,241,705	56	166	580,742	235	678	1,738,218
Gallatin .....	579	2,721	3,441,049	38	143	404,800	158	467	1,114,321
Garfield .....	26	77	93,534	2	2	5,524	7	33	79,134
Glacier .....	303	1,593	1,423,239	11	41	144,249	70	423	898,346
Golden Valley .....	13	18	26,235	—	—	—	1	1	3,393
Granite .....	99	342	159,014	2	7	29,364	19	43	72,403
Hill .....	345	1,828	2,981,099	23	89	301,851	81	293	726,951
Jefferson .....	100	240	139,890	3	10	41,148	20	48	82,394
Judith Basin .....	44	85	165,518	2	9	33,014	4	6	9,818
Lake .....	266	859	773,792	14	36	104,334	48	105	163,601
Lewis and Clark .....	710	4,192	4,313,546	72	601	1,992,294	204	811	2,316,673
Liberty .....	68	459	318,942	4	7	23,486	10	17	75,047
Lincoln .....	284	2,290	975,416	6	15	46,104	47	126	239,826
Madison .....	127	265	333,156	4	10	37,793	30	84	115,044
McCone .....	57	171	136,026	2	7	55,071	10	26	65,421
Meagher .....	56	145	100,198	2	7	25,090	10	28	42,434
Mineral .....	59	415	88,963	—	—	—	10	24	46,206
Missoula .....	949	7,544	8,064,343	54	265	743,000	267	1,173	3,140,850
Musselshell .....	130	679	445,618	5	18	69,184	24	119	293,916
Park .....	347	1,513	1,452,679	18	64	196,692	89	388	889,925
Petroleum .....	20	53	20,714	—	—	—	4	25	70,359
Phillips .....	137	440	768,239	9	24	52,826	30	101	182,602
Pondera .....	164	626	1,140,530	8	34	115,280	29	57	169,828
Powder River .....	43	131	98,017	3	10	30,096	8	15	46,276
Powell .....	153	731	496,824	9	35	86,286	35	102	148,846
Prairie .....	42	120	188,121	3	10	41,961	4	11	10,166
Ravalli .....	225	893	765,089	15	52	177,386	32	106	196,664
Richland .....	245	911	1,640,109	13	47	165,847	54	165	350,089
Roosevelt .....	266	891	1,573,198	9	47	173,984	61	199	418,499
Rosebud .....	115	411	321,879	7	26	67,615	23	61	142,354
Sanders .....	164	749	324,446	8	41	108,395	32	64	97,894
Sheridan .....	154	509	818,243	8	24	89,174	29	82	184,840
Silver Bow .....	1,162	13,055	12,239,463	90	542	1,889,008	311	1,267	3,363,001
Stillwater .....	109	601	276,255	3	19	64,135	27	63	134,311
Sweet Grass .....	81	181	271,353	5	14	40,988	13	20	45,108
Teton .....	170	507	640,649	9	24	89,429	32	79	160,605
Toole .....	316	1,043	1,109,513	7	35	132,519	56	166	397,529
Treasure .....	17	133	95,548	1	4	12,797	—	—	—
Valley .....	239	930	1,346,772	14	50	187,425	51	153	348,474
Wheatland .....	72	187	234,021	3	12	45,053	18	33	59,455
Wibaux .....	31	132	200,653	3	10	31,485	2	9	6,642
Yellowstone .....	1,900	16,186	20,387,973	179	932	2,962,413	476	2,246	6,038,447
Statewide (3) .....	235	11,463	15,371,589	10	27	92,622	45	250	665,213
Fiscal 1955 .....	15,232	108,048	\$121,633,861	1,005	4,972	\$ 16,284,779	3,594	14,040	\$34,582,866
Fiscal 1954 .....	14,853	107,018	\$117,732,722	967	4,878	\$ 15,313,032	3,489	14,108	\$34,193,031
Fiscal 1950 .....	14,100	98,769	\$ 92,195,481	823	3,804	\$ 9,745,316	3,572	13,842	\$27,415,390
Calendar 1946 .....	9,984	83,189	\$ 58,886,233	707	3,205	\$ 6,322,973	2,279	10,785	\$15,857,190

- (1) Interstate railroads are ascribed to an individual county, multi-county pattern and reporting.
- (2) See "Subdivisions" whose base operations shift from industrial group. Wages and employment of such classified. In a factual sense this category proportionately to such factors as utilities represented, and volume of

County Wage Averages Subdivisions of Major Industrial Groups—

Average earnings are derived from gross wages reported and number of employees on covered payrolls. On a county breakdown comparative figures for fiscal 1955 and fiscal 1954 are given.

County	Average Wage 1955	Average Wage 1954
1. Liberty	\$5,134	\$4,757
2. Stillwater	4,268	3,826
3. Treasure	4,109	4,273
4. Flathead	4,107	3,428
5. McCone	4,080	3,358
6. Lincoln	4,068	3,802
7. Deer Lodge	4,060	4,222
8. Silver Bow	3,869	3,964
9. Pondera	3,806	3,582
10. Sanders	3,804	3,239
11. Mineral	3,785	3,811
12. Granite	3,709	3,319
13. Yellowstone	3,682	3,716
14. Dawson	3,483	3,265
15. Lewis and Clark	3,437	3,324
16. Cascade	3,435	3,434
17. Musselshell	3,386	3,242
18. Glacier	3,372	3,231
19. Missoula	3,358	3,495
20. Chouteau	3,344	3,111
21. Custer	3,304	3,203
22. Hill	3,301	3,161
23. Wibaux	3,297	2,787
24. Powell	3,285	3,142
25. Fergus	3,239	2,929
26. Valley	3,232	2,869
27. Toole	3,219	3,061
28. Gallatin	3,172	3,022
29. Teton	3,151	3,121
30. Roosevelt	3,145	2,959
31. Beaverhead	3,140	2,829
32. Rosebud	3,124	3,101
33. Carbon	3,100	2,890
34. Ravalli	3,089	2,984
35. Blaine	3,083	2,847
36. Daniels	3,033	2,839
37. Petroleum	2,930	2,820
38. Richland	2,930	3,055
39. Big Horn	2,926	2,960
40. Meagher	2,926	2,602
41. Park	2,899	2,603
42. Prairie	2,872	2,511
43. Lake	2,863	2,815
44. Sheridan	2,856	2,833
45. Fallon	2,796	2,476
46. Powder River	2,720	2,436
47. Jefferson	2,711	2,323
48. Phillips	2,648	2,466
49. Broadwater	2,554	3,000
50. Judith Basin	2,550	2,570
51. Sweet Grass	2,550	2,227
52. Madison	2,529	2,370
53. Garfield	2,522	2,323
54. Golden Valley	2,474	2,409
55. Carter	2,241	2,493
56. Wheatland	2,116	2,076
Statewide	3,852	3,503
State Average	3,584	3,482

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION OF MONTANA  
MITCHELL BUILDING  
P. O. Box 1728  
HELENA, MONTANA  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Major industries as presented in this compilation are classified in accordance with accepted classification practices. Subdivisions of the major groups operating in Montana and subject to Montana laws on unemployment insurance are listed below.

Mining—	Metal Mining
	Coal Mining
	Petroleum and Gas Production
	Nonmetallic Mining, Quarrying
Contract Construction—	Building
	Other Than Building
	Special Trade
Manufacturing—	Durable
	Ordinance and Accessories
	Lumber and Wood, Primary
	Furniture and Fixtures
	Stone, Clay, Glass, Etc.
	Primary Metals Industries
	Fabricated Metal Products
	Machinery
	Transportation Equipment
	Scientific Instruments
	Misc. Mfg. Industries
	Non-Durable
	Food and Kindred Products
	Textile Mill Products
	Apparel, from Fabrics
	Printing and Publishing
	Chemicals
	Petroleum, Coal Products
	Leather and Products
Transportation, Communications, Public Utilities—	Local Railways, Bus Lines
	Trucking and Warehousing
	Other Transportation
	Communication, Wire and Other
	Utilities, Electric and Gas
	Other Service Utilities

Offices of Montana State Employment Service

Office	Address	Office	Address
Anaconda	117 Main St.	Helena	515 N. Last Chance
Billings	2909 Montana Ave.	Kalispell	126 First Ave. E.
Bozeman	28 South Black Ave.	Lewistown	215 Third Ave. N.
Butte	30 West Granite St.	Livingston	119 East Callendar
Cut Bank	116 E. Main St.	Miles City	507 Main St.
Dillon	28 Center St.	Missoula	230 West Pine
Glasgow	207 Fifth St.	Polson	Salish Hotel Bldg.
Glendive	116½ S. Merrill Ave.	Shelby	110 Division St.
Great Falls	1201 Central Ave.	Sidney	215 Second Ave., N. E.
Hamilton	333 Main St.	Thompson Falls	Saint Bldg.
Havre	431 First St.	Wolf Point	107 Third Ave. S.

Industrial Relations  
U. of California  
Berkeley 4, California

Wholesale and Retail Trade—

Wholesale	Full-service Wholesalers
	Other Wholesale Distributors
	Wholesale and Retail (Combinations)
Retail	General Merchandise
	Food and Liquor Stores
	Automotive
	Apparel and Accessories
	Retail Trade not elsewhere classified
	Eating and Drinking Places
	Filling Stations
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate—	Banks and Trusts
	Security Dealers, Investments
	Finance Agencies, not elsewhere classified
	Insurance Carriers
	Insurance Agents
	Real Estate, Loans, Etc.
	Holding Companies (except real estate)
Service Industries—	Hotels, Rooming Houses, Camps
	Personal Services
	Non-personal Services
	Trade Schools, Etc.
	Auto Repair and Garages
	Hand Repair Trades
	Motion Pictures
	Amusement, Recreation
	Medical and Health
	Law Offices
	Educational Institutions
	Professional and Social
	Non-profit Membership Organizations
Miscellaneous—	Farm Services
	Forestry
	Not Elsewhere Classified

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL  
United States Postage  
Accounted for Under  
Act of Congress

MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Presenting INDUSTRIAL WAGES, WAGE-EARNERS, EMPLOYERS, BY COUNTIES AND INDUSTRIES IN FISCAL 1955

Issued by  
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION OF MONTANA  
Albert F. Root, Commissioner  
Chadwick H. Smith, Chairman  
Paul R. McClure, Commissioner  
Mitchell Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana

FL-153-A  
DECEMBER, 1955

Benefit Related to Wage MORE WAGE-EARNERS, MORE DOLLARS, 1955

Percentage relation of total unemployment compensation benefits in each county to the gross wage payments in that county for fiscal 1955 furnishes this listing:

County	Unemployment Benefits	Benefit to Wage Total %
1. Golden Valley	\$ 2,620	5.88
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3. Carbon	57,845	3.26
4. Madison	21,493	3.21
5. Musselshell	66,821	2.91
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9. Ravalli	67,453	2.45
10. Sanders	64,075	2.25
11. Phillips	24,542	2.11
12. Jefferson	13,645	2.10
13. Judith Basin	4,540	2.09
14. Prairie	7,159	2.08
15. Park	90,199	2.06
16. Big Horn	27,888	1.86
17. Wibaux	7,942	1.83
18. Valley	54,508	1.81
19. Fallon	9,693	1.61
20. Meagher	6,484	1.53
21. Roosevelt	41,330	1.47
22. Wheatland	5,796	1.46
23. Sweet Grass	6,575	1.42
24. Mineral	20,036	1.28
25. Flathead	310,839	1.27
26. Blaine	19,399	1.15
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37. Toole	29,209	.87
38. Garfield	1,676	.86
39. McCone	5,991	.86
40. Beaverhead	19,206	.85
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44. Daniels	7,194	.83
45. Powell	19,144	.80
46. Dawson	40,139	.78
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Finance	3,278	3,139	2,997	2,850	2,716	2,562	1,973
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All Industries	3,584	3,482	3,427	3,287	3,037	2,752	2,080

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Benefit Ratio to Wages Shown  
Lowest ratio, benefits drawn to wages paid, is shown for Treasure county, with Stillwater next, then Yellowstone, Deer Lodge, Lincoln and Silver Bow. These same counties, with exception of Lincoln, were in the low ratio group a year ago. The doubtful distinction of having highest ratio of benefits to wages belongs this year to Golden Valley, which was eleventh in the list a year ago. Lake drops from top to second, Carbon and Madison are third and fourth, while Sanders drops from second a year ago to tenth this year.

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# EMPLOYERS, WAGE-EARNERS, WAGES, IN MONTANA'S MAJOR COVERED INDUSTRIES BY COUNTIES, FISCAL YEAR 1955

COUNTY	ALL COVERED INDUSTRY			MINING			CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION			MANUFACTURING			TRANSP., COMMUN., PUBLIC UTILITIES (1)			WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE			FINANCE, INSURANCE REAL ESTATE			SERVICE INDUSTRIES AND MISC. (2)		
	Average No. Employers	Average No. Wage Earners	WAGES	Average No. Employers	Average No. Wage Earners	WAGES	Average No. Employers	Average No. Wage Earners	WAGES	Average No. Employers	Average No. Wage Earners	WAGES	Average No. Employers	Average No. Wage Earners	WAGES	Average No. Employers	Average No. Wage Earners	WAGES	Average No. Employers	Average No. Wage Earners	WAGES	Average No. Employers	Average No. Wage Earners	WAGES
Beaverhead .....	191	718	\$ 2,254,400	8	26	\$ 93,312	19	38	\$ 122,935	11	22	\$ 71,410	6	24	\$ 104,865	99	371	\$ 1,042,506	9	31	\$ 114,322	39	206	\$ 705,050
Big Horn .....	144	512	1,498,065	5	—	203,262	11	23	60,787	2	16	40,060	4	21	75,035	79	298	770,839	9	39	168,098	34	73	179,984
Blaine .....	140	548	1,689,748	3	15	47,842	16	94	354,388	5	40	177,572	8	23	73,697	76	272	783,112	7	41	130,258	25	63	122,879
Broadwater .....	56	193	493,000	5	14	45,593	7	12	52,100	3	13	30,191	—	—	—	30	111	273,080	1	6	21,899	10	37	70,135
Carbon .....	193	572	1,772,997	16	129	676,408	13	42	158,512	9	56	145,296	8	17	38,708	100	208	449,943	8	23	95,867	39	97	208,263
Carter .....	41	104	233,022	—	—	—	2	11	11,779	4	7	11,389	3	13	41,586	22	46	103,331	2	7	23,662	8	20	41,275
Cascade .....	1,492	13,357	45,885,253	22	49	130,508	193	1,577	6,681,975	53	2,784	11,557,704	47	471	1,736,691	568	5,386	17,655,194	147	948	3,188,772	372	2,142	4,934,409
Chouteau .....	129	423	1,414,708	—	—	—	13	23	64,920	5	15	39,107	5	24	104,639	78	297	1,021,709	6	23	70,306	22	41	114,027
Custer .....	328	1,810	5,980,182	7	13	48,461	41	188	833,958	12	126	468,422	16	147	846,627	137	871	2,606,630	15	76	259,233	100	389	916,851
Daniels .....	90	285	864,499	—	—	—	9	36	125,831	3	13	28,232	5	19	60,665	52	173	534,164	5	20	68,195	16	24	47,412
Dawson .....	252	1,470	5,119,599	22	152	786,973	32	303	1,257,574	6	44	155,490	14	66	240,462	104	540	1,628,358	11	63	185,138	63	302	865,604
Deer Lodge .....	262	4,037	16,470,422	5	1,028	4,561,962	22	82	319,876	4	2,146	9,544,521	13	45	187,037	133	492	1,295,412	18	52	144,258	57	212	417,356
Fallon .....	87	216	603,882	2	15	81,597	7	10	32,093	3	10	30,374	5	4	9,196	45	119	303,762	6	22	66,594	19	36	80,266
Fergus .....	336	1,518	4,916,588	10	82	464,481	39	108	408,212	17	252	973,784	11	35	121,505	158	705	2,162,661	27	105	257,713	74	231	528,232
Flathead .....	959	5,946	24,419,519	5	5	15,168	101	1,491	8,999,704	155	1,606	6,709,903	24	309	1,134,079	383	1,691	5,241,705	56	166	580,742	235	678	1,738,218
Gallatin .....	579	2,721	8,630,169	4	9	17,653	60	278	1,279,206	43	591	2,210,697	19	52	162,443	257	1,181	3,441,049	38	143	404,800	158	467	1,114,321
Garfield .....	26	77	194,181	—	—	—	1	1	3,213	1	5	11,348	1	1	1,428	14	35	93,534	2	2	5,524	7	33	79,134
Glacier .....	303	1,593	5,371,538	60	393	1,864,861	25	137	517,291	6	26	89,623	13	113	433,929	118	460	1,423,239	11	41	144,249	70	423	898,346
Golden Valley .....	13	18	44,528	—	—	—	2	3	11,587	—	—	—	2	2	3,313	8	12	26,235	—	—	—	1	1	3,393
Granite .....	99	342	1,268,379	16	173	850,671	7	13	50,268	13	31	86,458	3	7	20,201	39	68	159,014	2	7	29,364	19	43	72,403
Hill .....	345	1,828	6,033,738	2	2	4,451	44	269	1,219,718	12	116	441,464	12	98	358,204	171	961	2,981,099	23	89	301,851	81	293	726,951
Jefferson .....	100	240	650,715	18	41	148,370	8	24	93,260	7	21	46,912	3	28	98,741	38	68	139,890	3	10	41,148	20	48	82,394
Judith Basin .....	44	85	216,784	—	—	—	4	2	6,076	2	1	2,063	1	1	295	31	66	165,518	2	9	33,014	4	6	9,818
Lake .....	266	859	2,459,020	1	1	281	25	46	142,734	37	324	1,241,738	9	21	32,540	132	326	773,792	14	36	104,334	48	105	163,601
Lewis and Clark .....	710	4,192	14,408,934	8	39	121,760	82	383	1,575,807	43	892	3,877,044	18	82	211,810	283	1,384	4,313,546	72	601	1,992,294	204	811	2,316,673
Liberty .....	68	459	2,356,454	3	10	42,919	11	311	1,832,745	1	4	7,348	4	11	55,967	35	99	318,942	4	7	23,486	10	17	75,047
Lincoln .....	284	2,290	9,315,667	5	124	640,237	20	41	135,017	94	1,576	7,119,672	13	48	159,395	99	360	975,416	6	15	46,104	47	126	239,826
Madison .....	127	265	670,131	14	21	112,711	8	14	39,714	5	6	14,177	4	10	17,536	62	120	333,156	4	10	37,793	30	84	115,044
McCone .....	57	171	697,764	2	35	85,505	9	25	85,505	1	1	5,000	3	31	137,597	30	46	136,026	2	7	55,071	10	26	65,421
Meagher .....	56	145	424,207	1	1	8,556	4	15	73,952	11	31	89,157	3	20	84,820	25	43	100,198	2	7	25,090	10	28	42,434
Mineral .....	59	415	1,570,791	5	4	11,512	8	5	16,350	8	222	1,406,009	1	2	1,751	27	47	88,963	—	—	—	10	24	46,206
Missoula .....	949	7,544	25,333,392	4	24	56,206	137	772	3,211,035	80	2,303	9,325,323	34	256	792,635	373	2,751	8,064,343	54	265	743,000	267	1,173	3,140,850
Musselshell .....	130	679	2,299,122	17	307	1,307,528	9	16	62,428	7	16	39,192	7	22	81,256	61	181	445,618	5	18	69,184	24	119	293,916
Park .....	347	1,513	4,386,823	5	14	66,545	34	148	629,532	19	268	981,525	8	46	169,920	174	585	1,452,679	18	64	196,692	89	388	889,925
Petroleum .....	20	53	155,281	1	1	690	4	13	62,456	—	—	—	1	2	1,062	10	12	20,714	—	—	—	4	25	70,359
Phillips .....	137	440	1,164,974	—	—	—	14	24	68,725	3	16	52,271	2	12	40,311	79	263	768,239	9	24	52,826	30	101	182,602
Pondera .....	164	626	2,382,819	10	93	495,556	19	88	372,490	2	6	27,225	4	23	61,910	92	325	1,140,530	8	34	115,280	29	57	169,828
Powder River .....	43	131	356,257	—	—	—	10	46	145,690	2	4	9,644	4	9	26,534	16	47	98,017	3	10	30,096	8	15	46,276
Powell .....	153	731	2,401,481	12	273	1,300,011	11	22	79,748	16	59	199,264	5	25	90,502	65	215	496,824	9	35	86,286	35	102	148,846
Prairie .....	42	120	344,625	1	8	42,130	2	16	59,555	1	1	2,692	—	—	—	31	74	188,121	3	10	41,961	4	11	10,166
Ravalli .....	225	893	2,758,803	3	8	27,446	20	63	216,615</															



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F. Root, Commissioner  
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## Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary, Nov. 1

(Continued from Page Two)

in Yellowstone park shut down for the winter. Residence building program scant. New bank building is under way. Railroad employment continues at bottom level, though few brakemen and switchmen were hired in October. Larger sawmills operating with full crews, some smaller outlots have curtailed for the winter. Logging and hauling continues at full pace.

**MILES CITY, Baker, Broadus, Ekalaka, Colstrip, Forsyth, Terry**—(96 jobseekers; 63 men, 33 women; 18 men and 5 women over 45) Employment is down in this area, new applications double those of year ago, though idle of active applicants has not kept pace. No large construction jobs in progress, one school job shut down for lack of steel.

**MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior**—(254 jobseekers; 156 men, 98 women; 67 men and 46 women over 45) Increased hiring in construction and by logging contractors during October. Gas pipeline under way, progress slowed by heavy rock work encountered. Christmas tree harvest has begun, absorbing mobile section of labor supply. Sugar plant all started, will complete season run in November. Some construction projects just getting started.

**POLSON**—(89 jobseekers; 55 men, 34 women; 15 men and 12 women over 45) Plywood plant expanding, is adding another shift in November, employs 100 now. Will continue through winter months if feasible. Christmas tree harvest occupies considerable crew, mostly on independent contractor basis. In general, industrial employment is firmer than year ago.

**SHELBY, Chester, Conrad, Tiber Dam**—(61 jobseekers; 32 men, 29 women; 15 men and 1 woman over 45) Outside work continued on full scale through most of October. Construction projects include 15 homes, a store, two filling stations, a library, highway contract, street job, and oil refinery at Kevin. Tiber dam dirt work all completed, rip-rap yet to be done. Heavy equipment operators leaving the area.

**SIDNEY**—(24 jobseekers; 17 men, 7 women; 5 men and 2 women over 45) More construction than a year ago. A clinic building started with ten-man crew, road job opening at Fairview. Several new homes added to the 20 under construction. Labor market continues in balance, completions matched new starts. Sugar plant fully staffed; beet harvest mechanized, all finished.

**THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs**—(82 jobseekers; 60 men, 22 women; 34 men and 8 women over 45) Fewer men, more women, in active file than month ago. Noxon dam employment stable, few hires. Railroad bridge contract let, will be hiring soon. Other construction demand light. Heavy Christmas tree harvest employment and demand for lumber skills, mostly replacements.

**WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey**—(40 jobseekers; 24 men, 16 women; 4 men and 3 women over 45) Construction employment increased in October, with work starting on a new school, elevator, two service stations, store, homes, farm granaries and machine sheds, and on railroad rip-rap. Labor supply adequate and will develop into surplus by turn of the year, when seasonal reductions are expected.

## ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Oct. 1955 (2)	Sept. 1955 (3)	Oct. 1954	Sept. '55 to Oct. '55	Oct. '54 to Oct. '55
<b>NONAGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.....</b>	<b>159,300</b>	<b>162,700</b>	<b>150,200</b>	<b>—3,400</b>	<b>9,100</b>
<b>Manufacturing .....</b>	<b>21,300</b>	<b>20,700</b>	<b>17,100</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>4,200</b>
Durable goods .....	11,800	12,500	8,700	— 700	3,100
Lumber and timber products.....	6,300	6,900	6,400	— 600	— 100
Primary metals.....	4,200	4,300	1,100	— 100	3,100
Other (4).....	1,300	1,300	1,200	0	100
Nondurable goods.....	9,500	8,200	8,400	1,300	1,100
Food and kindred products.....	5,500	4,200	5,000	1,300	500
Printing and publishing.....	1,700	1,700	1,600	0	100
Petroleum refining.....	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0
Other (5).....	1,000	1,000	500	0	500
<b>Mining .....</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>7,300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,600</b>
Metal mining .....	7,500	7,400	3,900	100	3,600
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic .....	800	800	900	0	— 100
Petroleum-natural gas production .....	2,600	2,700	2,500	— 100	100
<b>Contract Construction .....</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>—1,000</b>	<b>— 500</b>
Contractors, building construction .....	4,600	4,800	5,200	— 200	— 600
Contractors, other than building .....	3,400	4,200	3,500	— 800	— 100
Contractors, special trade .....	3,500	3,500	3,300	0	200
<b>Transportation and utilities .....</b>	<b>22,600</b>	<b>22,700</b>	<b>21,800</b>	<b>— 100</b>	<b>800</b>
Interstate railroads .....	13,500	13,600	12,900	— 100	600
Transportation except railroads .....	3,500	3,500	3,600	0	— 100
Utilities including communication .....	5,600	5,600	5,300	0	300
<b>Trade .....</b>	<b>39,600</b>	<b>40,800</b>	<b>39,300</b>	<b>—1,200</b>	<b>300</b>
Wholesale trade .....	9,100	9,100	8,900	0	200
Retail trade .....	30,500	31,700	30,400	—1,200	100
General merchandise and apparel.....	5,400	5,600	5,900	— 200	— 500
Food stores .....	4,500	4,500	4,700	0	— 200
Eating and drinking establishments.....	7,500	8,300	7,600	— 800	— 100
Automotive and filling stations .....	6,300	6,500	5,800	— 200	500
Retail trade not elsewhere classified.....	6,800	6,800	6,400	0	400
<b>Finance, insurance and real estate.....</b>	<b>5,700</b>	<b>5,700</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Services and miscellaneous.....</b>	<b>19,700</b>	<b>20,400</b>	<b>19,600</b>	<b>— 700</b>	<b>100</b>
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc. ....	2,800	3,400	2,800	— 600	0
Personal services .....	2,300	2,300	2,200	0	100
Other (6) .....	14,600	14,700	14,600	— 100	0
<b>Government .....</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>29,000</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>—1,000</b>	<b>0</b>
Federal .....	6,200	6,500	6,400	— 300	— 200
State and local .....	21,800	22,500	21,600	— 700	200
<b>Great Falls Area (Cascade County).....</b>	<b>18,800</b>	<b>18,900</b>	<b>17,100</b>	<b>— 100</b>	<b>1,700</b>
Manufacturing .....	2,700	2,700	1,500	0	1,200
Contract construction .....	1,800	1,900	1,700	— 100	100
Transportation and utilities .....	2,600	2,600	2,500	0	100
Trade, wholesale and retail .....	6,000	5,900	5,900	100	100
Services and miscellaneous (7) .....	3,500	3,500	3,300	0	200
Government .....	2,200	2,300	2,200	— 100	0

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from sample of 744 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on returns from 1,017 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, nonprofit membership organizations and business not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above, also includes finance, insurance, real estate and mining.

## COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET TRANSACTIONS IN OCTOBER, 1955, AND OCTOBER, 1954

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								U. I. Claims Wk. 11-14	
	Oct. 1955		Oct. 1954		Oct. 1955		Oct. 1954		October 1955				October 1954				1955	1954
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.		
Anaconda.....	42	5	16	2	49	6	151	21	32	418	450	94	6	63	69	11	49	321
Billings.....	309	110	300	86	532	139	489	137	707	377	1,084	508	434	354	788	305	253	271
Bozeman.....	177	53	175	43	199	81	172	32	198	1,149	1,347	439	207	1,191	1,398	308	45	62
Butte.....	249	54	96	9	338	52	759	135	393	52	445	165	53	2	55	28	205	581
Cut Bank.....	48	21	39	18	46	16	43	14	44	47	91	32	17	270	287	27	24	29
Dillon.....	44	14	65	14	60	13	53	9	26	66	92	48	43	63	106	45	19	27
Glasgow.....	75	35	97	31	82	20	119	37	160	62	222	102	135	62	197	53	53	28
Glendive.....	57	31	86	43	46	21	27	2	128	68	196	72	166	184	350	116	22	20
Great Falls.....	411	130	361	88	399	115	654	187	370	107	477	196	216	158	374	108	270	371
Hamilton.....	35	7	29	9	77	16	47	15	36	156	192	19	58	477	535	36	36	29
Havre.....	97	26	84	25	36	4	70	22	172	89	261	98	140	80	220	111	39	35
Helena.....	188	36	219	66	169	45	223	83	153	70	223	93	122	73	195	106	109	119
Kalispell.....	365	52	283	32	485	121	255	44	159	23	182	76	163	50	213	70	254	111
Lewistown.....	46	12	58	24	52	17	67	17	57	51	108	53	44	66	110	47	42	35
Livingston.....	60	20	102	34	132	30	159	45	63	11	74	27	79	35	114	57	90	97
Miles City.....	109	25	45	14	96	23	119	38	68	76	144	36	148	60	208	85	46	69
Missoula.....	266	79	193	81	254	93	366	104	329	205	534	216	523	100	623	356	129	164
Polson.....	54	15	43	17	89	16	106	32	27	17	44	17	11	4	15	11	73	102
Shelby.....	36	5	65	18	61	11	62	13	57	72	129	40	70	41	111	49	38	29
Sidney.....	47	9	56	11	24	5	43	10	88	61	149	36	117	119	236	74	17	21
Thomp. Fls.**	30	9	—	—	82	23	—	—	36	18	54	22	—	—	—	—	37	—
Wolf Point.....	52	13	47	11	40	13	54	21	34	68	102	42	49	88	137	33	39	43
TOTALS.....	2,866	761	2,459	676	3,348	880	4,038	1,018	3,337	3,263	6,600	2,431	2,801	3,540	6,341	2,036	1,889	2,564

\* Includes 41 claims of Federal Employees UC program instituted January 1, 1955. \*\* Office re-opened June 1.

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)  
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Oct. (1) 1955	Sept. (2) 1955	Oct. 1954	Oct. (1) 1955	Sept. (2) 1955	Oct. 1954	Oct. (1) 1955	Sept. (2) 1955	Oct. 1954
All Manufacturing .....	\$89.48	\$90.65	\$82.25	42.6	42.4	41.3	\$2.10	\$2.14	\$1.99
Durable goods .....	96.49	95.44	83.74	4.42	43.8	40.7	2.18	2.18	2.06
Primary metals .....	100.42	100.35	69.25	45.0	45.0	36.5	2.23	2.23	1.90
Nondurable goods .....	80.27	82.48	80.66	40.6	39.9	41.9	1.98	2.07	1.93
Food and kindred products .....	76.44	69.93	72.97	45.8	41.1	44.5	1.67	1.70	1.64
All Mining .....	101.79	100.85	66.59	42.5	42.2	30.3	2.40	2.39	2.20
Metal mining .....	104.09	104.09	38.77	43.5	43.5	19.1	2.39	2.39	2.03
Transportation and Utilities (except railrds.)	81.10	82.17	77.75	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transportation (except railroads).....	97.32	95.02	92.93	—	—	—	—	—	—
Utilities and communication .....	73.21	75.83	70.54	39.7	41.0	39.8	1.84	1.85	1.77

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

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